

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02656 170912Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 /084 W  
-----172231Z 076736 /73

R 161637Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2656

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IV, DM  
SUBJ: HOUPHOUET'S COMMENTS ON BENIN

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT  
HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY LAST NIGHT, DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO OTHER  
MATTERS, HE MENTIONED WITH CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION  
THE REFERENCE TO THE IVORY COAST APPARENTLY CONTAINED  
IN THE UN REPORT ON THE ALLEGED MERCENARY ADVENTURE IN  
COTONOU. HOUPHOUET SAID THAT HE WAS EXASPERATED BY  
IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNWARRANTED ATTACKS ON THE IVORY COAST  
BY ITS NEIGHBORS. HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE UN  
INVESTIGATING GROUP HAD PERMITTED THE UNVERIFIED ACCU-  
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SATIONS OF A SO-CALLED GUINEAN MERCENARY TO BE WIDELY  
CIRCULATED UNDER UN AUSPICES. HE EXPOUNDED AT SOME  
LENGTH ON THE NEED OF WEAK AND CORRUPT REGIMES WHICH  
STYLED THEMSELVES AS REVOLUTIONARY TO CREATE SCARE-  
CROWS AND SCAPEGOATS. IF TO BE A REVOLUTIONARY MEANT TO  
CHANGE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF A COUNTRY  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ITS PEOPLE, THE IVORY COAST, HE SAID,

WAS THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY STATE IN AFRICA.

2. THE IVORY COAST, HE CONCLUDED, MAY BE A MODEL FOR ITS NEIGHBORS BUT NOT A MENACE. THE HEAD OF THE UN INVESTIGATING GROUP HAD VISITED ABIDJAN AND HOUPHOUET THOUGHT IT INEXCUSABLE FOR HIM TO HAVE PERMITTED ANY REFERENCE TO THE IVORY COAST TO BE MADE IN THE UN REPORT WHICH, AS FAR AS HOUPHOUET KNEW, HAD BEEN PREPARED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF QUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE COLLECTED IN COTONOU.

3. COMMENT: WHILE HOUPHOUET USUALLY DISDAINS TO RESPOND DIRECTLY TO ATTACKS OF RADICAL AFRICAN LEADERS, HE SEEMED GENUINELY NETTLED BY THE UN REPORT AND IT WOULD NOT SURPRISE ME TO SEE THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUE A DENIAL THAT IT WAS INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN RECENT EVENTS IN BENIN. END COMMENT.  
STEARNS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MERCENARIES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOUPHOUET'S COMMENTS ON BENIN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IV, DM, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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